



in the news

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POWERFUL PROTEAS TO FEAR IN BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



At the last Atlantic Championship in 2011, South Africa were sole representative of the world's second largest and most populous of the world's continents. From November 30-December 13 this year, five African nations are competing.

The venue is the same, the magnificent Athena Beach Hotel at Paphos, but this time the event has added significance since only those finishing in the top 10 of each discipline (singles, pairs, triples, fours) qualify for the World Bowls Championships (WBC) at Christchurch, New Zealand at the end of 2016.

Already qualified for WBC New Zealand are Australia's men and women (overall world champions from 2012) and the hosts New Zealand. For the rest it is "take no prisoners."

This time, the USA are trying to qualify at the Pacific Championships in New Zealand (See story this newsletter), but joining are Argentina, Isle of Man, Turkey and the sub-Saharan nations of Botswana, Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

In both men's and women's sections there are

18 entries split into two sections of nine. Games are of standard World Bowls format, each with a 2hr 15 min time limit.

In 2011, South Africa's men and women each ended in third spot – England and Scotland taking gold and silver in both respectively. Although the Proteas shone in three of the four disciplines, winning gold, silver or bronze and high ranking points, indifferent results in the men's fours and women's singles denied SA overall victory.

What changes have occurred since 2011 to the SA sides? Transformation and development have played major role. The average age of both teams is down; the SA selectors have pinned their faith in a young Boland player, making her full international debut; the men have a black player, already a Commonwealth Games (Scotland), Masters player and district champion firmly playing a major role.

In 2011 the following represented SA:
Singles: Bobby Donnelly; Pairs: Bobby Donnelly/Gerry Baker; Triples: Clinton Roets/Wayne Perry/Gideon Vermeulen; Fours: Roets,

Perry, Vermeulen, Baker; Women: Singles: Tracy-Lee Botha; Pairs: Tracy-Lee Botha/Colleen Piketh; Triples: Helen Grundlingh, Susanna Steyn, Susan Nel; Fours: Grundlingh, Steyn, Nel, Piketh.

Not many have survived; the line-up now is: For the men, Gerry Baker again skips the fours and pairs – in the latter with his heir apparent Pierre Breitenbach, who plays third in the fours. The reliable Jason Evans (JBA) at second; seemingly invincible SA Masters, SA Singles and African States champion Rudi Jacobs (NW), in his late 40s the oldest in the side, but probably the form player, taking care of singles and pairs with Evans and the silky drawing Prince Nelounde (JBA), leading in fours and trips to complete an impressive men's line-up.

The women really do look awesome, with Susan Nel, Bowls SA go-to skip for big events, controlling the fours. SA wunderkind Tracy-Lee Botha (JBA) was originally selected, but is unable to travel and is replaced by former SA Singles champion Nici Neal (Sables), who played so well at last month's African States Tournament in Zambia. She slots into Botha's spot art third.



SILKY DRAWER:
Prince Nelounde



FIRST CLASS: A top class replacement for Tracy-Lee Botha - Nici Neal (Sables)

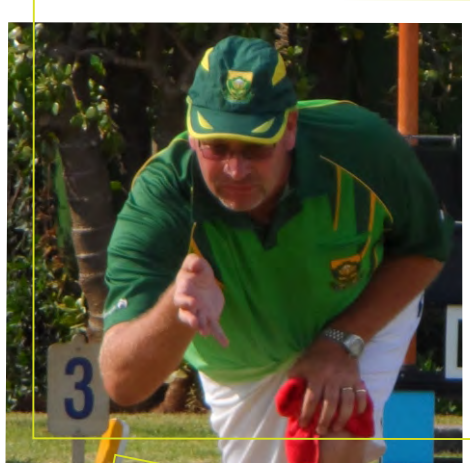
Debutante Anneke Snyman (Boland) who shone at the Quadrangular in Bulawayo against full international competition, slots in at second and back at lead is WP's tiny Sylvia Burns – a superb drawing player who can nail a place in New Zealand. Nel, Snyman, Burns look versatile for the Triples. Piketh and Neal, unless the Triples and Pairs line-ups are shuffled, looks top rate for the Pairs and, of course, Piketh is a world class singles player.

It never pays to try to find a winner at bowls, but South Africa, who gave notice at the Glasgow Games of intent with a serious medal haul, should be the side to fear.

Accompanying the sides are the now expected experienced duo of head coach Theuns Fraser and coach/manager Jessica Henderson.

We wish them a safe journey and good bowling.

**Alan Simmonds
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa**



SA'S ITINERARY AT PAPHOS IS:

Women: - Starting Monday Nov 30 -

(Day 1): Pairs 1 v Ireland; Trips 1 (bye); Pairs 2 v Argentina; Trips 2, v Kenya;
 (Day 2): Trips 3 v Zimbabwe; Pairs 3 v Spain; Trips 4 v Argentina; Pairs 4 v Namibia;
 (Day 3): Pairs 5 v Guernsey; Trips 5 v Ireland; Pairs 6 v Jersey; Trips 6 v Israel;
 (Day 4): Trips 7 v Guernsey; Pairs 7 v Wales; Trips 8 v Eng; Pairs 8 v Kenya; Trips 9 v Cyprus.

Men:

(Day 1): Trips 1 v Isle of Man; Pairs 1 v Cyprus; Trips 2 Bye; Pairs 2 v Spain;
 (Day 2): Pairs 3 v Argentina; Trips 3 v England; Pairs 4 Bye; Trips 4 v Ireland;
 (Day 3): Trips 5 v Turkey; Pairs 5 v Scotland; Trips 6 v Wales; Pairs 6 v Zimbabwe;
 (Day 4): Pairs 7 v Kenya; Trips 7 v Zimbabwe; Pairs 8 v Isle of Man; Trips 8 v Namibia;
 (Day 5): Pairs 9 v England; Trips 9 v Israel.

Friday December 4 - Trips/Pairs play-offs;

Saturday December 5 - Play-offs; finals/medals PM.



Women: Continuing Monday Dec 7 -

(Day 8): Singles 1 Bye; Fours 1 v Argentina; Singles 2 v England; Rinks 2 v Guernsey;
 (Day 9): Fours 3 v Israel, Singles 3 v Netherlands; Fours 4 v Isle of Man;
 (Day 10): Singles 4 v Isle of Man; Fours 5 v Ireland; Singles 5 v Cyprus;
 (Day 11): Singles 6 v Namibia; Fours 6 v Botswana; Singles 7 v Jersey;
 (Day 12): Singles 8 v Botswana; Fours 7 v Jersey; Singles 9 v Israel

Men:

(Day 8): Fours 1 v Isle of Man; Singles 1 v Kenya; Fours 2 v Cyprus; Singles 2 v Guernsey;
 (Day 9): Singles 3 v Cyprus; Fours 3 v Spain; Singles 4 v Netherlands;
 (Day 10): Singles 5 v Argentina; Fours 4 v Netherlands;
 (Day 11): Fours 5 v Ireland; Singles 6 v Scotland; Fours 6 v Israel; Singles 7 v Wales;
 (Day 12): Singles 8 Bye; Fours 7 v Zimbabwe; Singles 9 v Zimbabwe.

Saturday December 12 - Play-offs;

Sunday December 13 - Play-offs; finals; all trophies PM.





SEEKS WORLD BOWLS SPOT AT ASIA PACIFIC EVENT

Final touches are being made for the 2015 Asia Pacific Bowls Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand from November 24 - December 6; 18 nations and 169 competitors will be involved.

Add in the 43 country officials, 20 technical officer and about 160 volunteers and HQ, Burnside Bowling Club, will be fairly buzzing at about the same time the Proteas are in Paphos, Cyprus for the Atlantic Championships. Sectional play will also take place at Bowls Papanui BC.

The Antipodean and the Atlantic events are both qualifiers for the 2016 World Bowls Championships.

The top 10 countries per discipline (as in Cyprus) compete for supremacy in each discipline and as well as overall country -

qualifying per discipline permits smaller nations to get through. Australia's men and women (WBC holders) and New Zealand (host) qualify automatically.

MEN Section 1: Malaysia, China, New Zealand, USA, USA, Singapore, Norfolk Island, Canada, Niue.

Section 2: Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong China, Samoa, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Macao, India. The absence of Pakistan is disappointing.

WOMEN: Section 1: New Zealand, Malaysia, Norfolk Island, Singapore, Fiji, USA, China, Papua New Guinea, India.

Section 2: Philippines, Australia, Hong Kong China, Canada, Japan, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue.

Info: BILL FOWLIE, New Zealand



'STRINGS ATTACHED' FOR ASPEN

MEASURED UP! A 10-year-old is among 17 markers who qualified after a course held in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. The age spread was from 10-71, reports Robert Radcliffe of the Bowls SA standing committee (TO), who conducted the course.

Aspen Shaw, 10 (see above) scored 100% in two out of three questionnaires and 100% in the measuring practical, outscoring his father. He may just be the youngest in South Africa to have qualified.

After the event Aspen said, "If I could do again, I would". There was also an Under-25, Lindsay McArthur (22) who scored 100% in two out of three questionnaires.

The age distribution was 10, 22, three in 30's, 4 in 40's, one in 50's, 5 in 60's and two in 70's.

The success of any sport is underpinned by a strong administrative support at every level of management.

With ever-increasing administrative pressure from government, as well as securing the long-term survival of our sport it has become necessary to analyse present systems and develop a fresh approach to bowls management.

We require secure, lasting strategies in place and to produce a list of ideas pertinent to opportunities to bring everything to fruition.

At an executive bosberaad held in Cape Town we examined the functions of our standing committees - the engine room for the implementation of goals and objectives of the controlling body. I therefore appeal to all districts and clubs to ensure active standing committees are in place as they are considered essential for successful governance.

From the meeting the following initiatives emerged:

- **Membership:** Our recruitment drive should focus in lowering the average age of member and to focus on the age group 25-30.

- **A New Committee:** To manage transformation has been created to accelerate changes to the demographic profile of our sport.
- **A Sub-committee:** Under the auspices of transformation will introduce SASCO's Women in Sport Strategy

Colleen Piketh makes history as the first woman appointed as Players' Representative. She replaces Gerry Baker - thanks to him for his services - who has resigned.

A committee in Durban is being established to liaise for establishment of a bowls arena for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Bowls SA's SC: Technical Officials will ensure sufficient competent international standard officials are available.

Thanks to those who wished me well in this vital and prestigious post; I will do my best. Moreover, my door is always open, please communicate with me; dialogue is a vital part of the road forward.

Enjoy the new season and good preparation to our wonderful Proteas and administrators for the Atlantic Championships in Cyprus at the end of this month.

Kallie Haupt - President, Bowls South Africa



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Many people mumble “must do something” to help others ... just a few get it done, writes Alan Simmonds, Media Officer, Bowls South Africa.

Desiree Levin of Lombard East is a doer and she and others around her – the indefatigable Fanny Meyeridricks among others – are transforming the faces, hues, beliefs of many through bowls. Other less fortunate through physical impairment are benefitting from funds raised.

The Rainbow Trips (two-bowl triples) was initiated last year to raise funds for the SA team going to the Disabled World Championships (which they won). The outpouring of thanks and compliments from players and spectators led Desiree and team to organise another similar event, only this time featuring transformation – most dear to the hearts of the Bowls South Africa executive and a major project - in the sport adding another facet to raising funds for disabled sport.



YOUTH POWER: 2015 winners - U-19 and U-25 district stars – back, from left, Darryl Stafford, Darren Clarke and Randburg BC club mate Ryan Smith, centre front, flanked by Philip Neville, Shaleen Endres of Accumulo

THERE'S A POT OF GOLD AT END OF RAINBOW TRIPS IDEA

waste since all left over unused food was donated to a feeding scheme and an old age home in Alexandra.

Now a third event is gathering pace.

On December 20 at Lombardy East, an event, now known as The Spectacular Circle of Talent Trips, will feature no fewer than 32 of 48 players either Protea or of provincial standard; 11 are Under-19 or Under-25 district players from JBA or Bowls Gauteng North.

Among entries (12 African players are involved) is 2014 SA National Singles champion, Protea Morgan Muvhango (Sables), Commonwealth Games gold medallist and



2014 CHAMPS: from left: Protea Morgan Muvhango, his son No-Matter (18) and Johnny Loabile, greenkeeper at Discovery BC

2015 JBA Singles champion Prince Neluonde and his long-time Gold Squad friend and club mate Victor Siphali.

Enthusiasm is high - other top players include Donny Piketh, Esmé Haley, Loraine Victor, visually impaired World Cup and gold medal Protea winners. Entries have been received from as far afield as Mafeking, Rustenburg, Witbank and Pretoria. Such is the enthusiasm for this comp.

The event will be filmed for TV broadcast in the new year, but we will also have the media cover for SABC404, AM Live interviews and Sports Live 404 at some stage; also on various news channels in Nuus and other languages as a result of transformation success.

Not too late to enter:

Fanny Meyeridricks on 084 738 2189 or Desiree: 072 371 5204 / 011 640 2840



HELPING HANDS: Disabled Piet Steyn with from left, Desiree Levin, No-Matter Muvhango, Jill Pearson

Accumulo Consulting, who run the Accumulo Challenge which raises funds for Cansa and other charities (R570 000 this year) joined in and as a result of media and TV coverage Desiree organised, R28 500 was raised for PDBSA - more than double than last year. The event is now an annual JBA event.

This year's event included 11 black players, three times more than last year and a unique format of play, with 16 to 24 teams all playing on one green. Matches were short - 6 or 8 end games – played in a round robin in sections and then play-offs. The scoring system afforded each player an equal chance at the main prize money.

“Atmosphere was fun, friendly, spectator-involved, yet fiercely competitive,” says Desiree.

With a DJ playing enjoyable music there was much dancing and rhythm on and off the greens, 50/50 raffles and plenty of food donated by various sponsors. Nothing went to



SMILE TIME: Players and spectators - Kim King, wearing cap, and her happy group known as Kim's Kings.



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GLENDA TOO GOOD FOR TOP FIELD AT WESTVILLE



CHAMPS: Westville Winners from left; Sarie Bisset, Glenda Matthews, Susan Smith, Gloria White with Warwick's Stuart Milligan

A thrilling two-day Warwick Wealth event was held at Westville Bowling Club - KZN, with plenty of big guns playing. The Women's Day Tournament saw many the top bowlers from the area participating in the winner play winner event. Bowls was of the highest level, reports Lifestyle Network Manager Stuart Milligan. In the final game senior Protea and Warwick/Bowls Masters player, Glenda

Matthews and team edged Protea Louise Larkin (Durban BC, Port Natal) to take the honours. With the competition close, this defeat of Louise's team put them out of the prizes. Sheila Markovic and her team deserved their second place, followed closely by Stella Tweddie's Hillcrest side; Linda Didlick (Hillary, Port Natal) took the Warwick umbrella draw.



CLOSE BEHIND: Westville Runners-up; Faye Millar, Sheila Markovic, Yvonne Inglis and Marsha McCrimmon



THIRD SPOT: Claire Murray, Kristina Dunleavy, Stella Tweddie and Rowena Wepener



CLOSE BEHIND: J Robinson, J Platford, C Clifford (Warwick), H Small, M Dreyer

LOUISE & CO DEFY THE WIND AT COLLEGIANS

The wind howled, but the "band" played on Durban Collegians (Port Natal) for the Warwick Wealth Ladies Fours Tournament, reports Lifestyle Network Manager, Stuart Milligan. Cream came to the top - Protea Louise Larkin (Durban BC) and her side winning. Warwick Senior Wealth Specialist Conrad Clifford did the honours. The 20-team field played five games of 14 ends for a total of 25 points a game. There was a good sprinkling of Protea and provincial bowlers in attendance. Larkin's team were followed by Heather Small's Northlands team and a distant third was Jeanette Goble's, Parkhill side. Gaynor Watson (Westville) won the wine draw. Final scores: Larkin 94 points, +35 shots; Small 91, +35 shots, Goble 76, +19 shots.



THIRD SPOT: D Neilson, J Goble, C Clifford (Warwick), M Briant, H Smidt



WHAT A 'LARK': Winners: M Hatton-Jones, L. Larkin, C Clifford (Warwick), S Smith, D Kruger

WINE WISE: Gaynor Watson in luck

SULTRY SOUTHBROOM LAYS ALL ON FOR WARWICK

Southbroom Bowling Club, on the Hibiscus Coast - KZN, is part of a club offering wonderful sporting facilities. The area, which enjoys 4km of sandy Indian Ocean beach frontage and has protected its coastal bush with passion, is a favourite spot for many.

With the well-known Southbroom Golf Club, Frederika Nature Preserve and 350 000m² of township land zoned to conservation amid a lush green tropical paradise nestling between the Mbizane and Kaba Rivers, it is small wonder tourists and Durbanites flock there.

Warwick Lifestyle Network Manager Stuart Milligan reports he and Warwick Wealth Specialist Ryan Fleming enjoyed a Mixed Trips Tournament afternoon there in September.

Southbroom, a one-green club, saw 36 members play two 10-end games before tucking into boerewors or steak rolls sponsored by Warwick.

Conditions were ideal for good bowls and the participants played the games in a competitive, but friendly manner.



BEST TRIO: Winners at Southbroom, from left; Jim Cook, Monika Zunker, Bill Mason, with Warwick's Ryan Fleming

The eventual winners were Jim Cook, Monika Zunker, Bill Mason, just ahead of Peter Roux and Kobus Faber and their teams.

Mention must be made of the helpers who cooked the meat and the ladies in the kitchen; a big thank you to all for a great afternoon.

Elize Bester won the Warwick umbrella draw.



BROLLY DOLLY: Elize Bester and Ryan Fleming at Southbroom

JOLLY GOOD FUN DOWN AT MUIZENBERG



CAPE JOY: A great day was enjoyed by all at a Warwick Wealth tabs-in triples event at Muizenberg down on the Western Cape Peninsula, reports Warwick's Brian Yarwood.

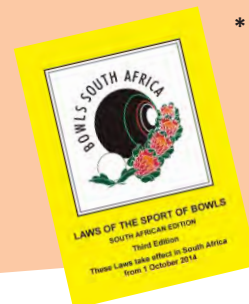
With a friendly crowd, good weather and even better the Warwick team finished third, the winners are left to right, Noel Peterson, Ingrid Peterson and Eric Hermanson with Brian Yarwood

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WHAT EVERY GOOD GREENKEEPER MUST UNDERSTAND

This is an article in the Back to Basics series and deals with annual changes necessitating a greenkeeper (GKP) removing a green from commission to renovate.

While a need to renovate a green is non-negotiable, timing should be left to the GKP and or his committee. Of all changes compaction is the most traumatic.

To understand compaction requires a working knowledge of the structure of the root zone and the part played by the pore spaces in facilitating the conversion and absorption of nutrients, plus the effect obliteration of the spaces have on the maintenance of a healthy playing surface.

The need to aerate the root zone and the mechanical devices available to deal with aeration are, also discussed. In later Grass Clippings other procedures to do with renovation will be explained.

A GKP's primary objective is to create and maintain a surface completely covered by an even mat of healthy grass which permits a bowl to run at a reasonable speed on a predictable draw.

The trouble is that a green is not static and having created the green it is now your responsibility to keep it at that level.

Apart from having to control the growth of the grass you also have to repair or replace the grass which is damaged by the machines used in the preparation of the green for play and the regular traffic of players.

It has become a balancing act where you have to maintain a rate of growth which is slightly in excess of the rate at which the grassy surface is being damaged.

However good you might be as a GKP it is virtually impossible for you to maintain a perfect playing surface indefinitely.

Subtle changes will be taking place on the green which, if left untended, will ultimately undermine your ability to maintain the desired rate of growth and compromise the surface you originally created.

My friend Jack appeared to be doing quite well until I had another message from him



"There appears to be some confusion in the club about what is meant by renovation and its importance in good green management."

MY REPLY - RENOVATION

Hi Jack -

This is all a question of back to basics. Although I might be repeating myself I would like to put all this into the proper perspective.

The time has come for you to take your green out of commission so that remedial measures can be initiated to prepare the green for another season.

Renovation can be defined as "the steps taken by a GKP to improve the quality of his turf annually beyond those achievable through normal cultural practices.

The Oxford Dictionary describes renovation as "...to restore to good condition and vigour..." and this, rather aptly, describes the series of procedures undertaken by a GKP to prepare for the coming season.

NB: Renovation must be regarded as the preparation for the coming season and NOT as the end of the previous season.

The next phone call was not long in arriving: "Could you be more explicit and explain (a) what are these changes which occur on the green (b) what are these procedures you mentioned to restore the green to it's former glory and (c) when is the best time to do all this."

COMPACTION

One of the most difficult and expensive issues to confront a GKP is soil compaction. Of all the changes which occur, compaction is the most important, but, also, the one that cannot be cured – only alleviated.

To understand compaction and the problems associated with it you must know a little about

soil – the growing medium.

Soil is composed of millions of particles which all lie together. The space between the particles is called the pore spaces. Apart from the fact that the particles provide physical support to anchor the roots of the grass plant it is the pore spaces which are of importance to the GKP. In these pore spaces between the particles one would find roots, water, air, nutrients, organic matter, and micro-organisms (bacteria fungi).

The size of the particles would determine the size of the pore spaces with the larger particles (sand) having larger pore spaces and free access to the constituents of the pore spaces while soil composed of small or finer particles (silt, clay) would have narrower pore spaces and with the roots occupying a large proportion of those spaces freedom of movement for the other constituents would be limited.

Sustained leaf growth occurs only if there is a regular supply of water and nutrients arriving from the roots. For this to happen (a) water and nutrients must be available in the soil, (b) micro-organisms must be present to convert (or digest) the fertiliser elements into a form acceptable to the roots and (c) the root system must be capable of absorbing and conveying the water and nutrients to the leaves.

Since concentration of these ingredients is limited it follows, therefore, the greater the area covered by the root system the easier it will be for them to maintain a regular supply to the leaves. Any limitation or retraction of the root system restricts the amount of nutrient conveyed to the leaves, thereby adversely affecting the growth potential of the grass plant and ultimately the playing surface.

Like any living thing the roots need oxygen to survive. The roots have to "breathe" and draw oxygen from the air which has infiltrated into the root zone, forming tiny pockets of air trapped in the pore spaces.

Water on the surface, through gravity, percolates the different layers of soil leaving a vacuum behind it. This vacuum draws air (O²) from the atmosphere into the soil (root zone).

When one irrigates a green ensure sufficient water to ensure that all pore spaces are filled. The passage of this water through the root zone maximises the air sucked in from the surface.

As the O² is slowly taken up there will, eventually be a level where all the oxygen in the air is depleted. Below this level the roots would not survive.

NB: You should realise that, apart from the roots, micro-organisms in the soil also depend on oxygen to survive. Their role in

the soil is to break down fertiliser elements to become absorbed by the roots. They are, in fact, competing with the roots for the O² in the pore spaces. Their presence in the soil would be limited to that part where oxygen is available.

NB: It is important you understand what appears as a paradox - that the roots need both water and air in the root zone to fulfil their function. There must be a period during which water is available in the root zone, also during which oxygen is available for the roots to survive.

The ability of the root system to fulfil its functions is directly related to the amount of oxygen available. It is up to the GRK to leave sufficient time between irrigations to allow the roots to take up the oxygen.

You will understand by now that root depth is determined by the presence of oxygen which, in turn, depends on the size of the sand particles to permit a freer flow of water - more air to be sucked in than would happen with smaller clay particles.

NB: In predominantly sandy soils with less than 3% clay, roots could, easily reach 100mm in depth. In clay soils (30% clay) the root system could be limited to 15m. If the texture of the soil was all that mattered you would learn to cope with it but, there is an added complication - **compaction**.

Compaction is a physical condition resulting from the compression of soil particles into a relatively dense mass

This would be more pronounced along the green's perimeter where the mat is placed and players stand waiting to play.

Compacted soil contributes to numerous turf related problems.

Reduced pore space in the soil adversely affects the infiltration of water and air thereby affecting the response of grass to changed conditions. In compacted soils water and air takes longer to navigate the root zone.

The level at which the oxygen in the air is depleted is now much shallower than before, resulting in the roots retracting. Their area of effectiveness - from which they draw nutrients, is reduced. They would be hard-pressed to find sufficient water and nutrient for adequate growth.

The response of the plant to soil compaction would include reduced root and shoot growth, lower water and nutrient uptake, reduced tolerance to heat/drought and increased susceptibility to scald.

One can say that soil compaction would influence the entire programme. More frequent fertilisation and irrigation are required to compensate for restricted rooting and general poor growth. All GKPs face compaction. The degree of compaction depends on (a) the amount of traffic; (b) the shape of the particles

Traffic: Traffic density influences risk of compaction.

Shape of particles: Perfectly round particles resist compaction; angular, elongated pieces, which fit more easily into one another, more likely to occlude pore spaces.

Dealing with Compaction: One must understand Jack, that compaction is part of your life as a GKP - you cannot avoid it. You cannot un-compact soil on a green, only alleviate it. In your garden it is easy to use a small fork to loosen the soil around your plants, but on a bowling green you create new passages for the O² by aerating the green.

Aeration can be achieved by (a) Hollow-tining (b) Verti-draining (c) Water-aeration

Hollow-tining: Is the practice of driving a hollow steel tine into your grass surface and removing a plug of grass and soil.

Remember, both the depth the tine penetrates the soil and the spacing of the tines is crucial to beneficial aeration.

Diameter of the tine may vary according to need. If it is simply to aerate, then a narrow 6-8mm tine would suffice. If, however, you want to introduce compost or sand into the tine holes, then a larger diameter tine would make it easier. You can go to 50mm tines if you need to alter soil texture - soil substitution. Remember the larger your tine holes, the longer they will take to recover.

If you are simply aerating the soil then your



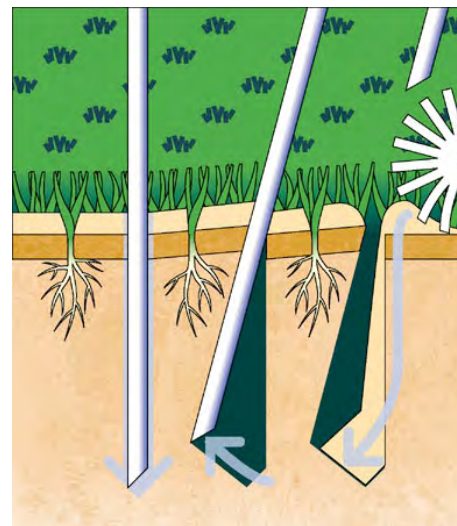
main objective would be to allow all roots to have access to the air.

To achieve this, your tine holes should be as close to one another as possible without disrupting the soil's stability. Small narrow tines placed close together would suffice.

In a city it would be possible to hire a big machine to hollow-tine your green which it should do in a few hours. If you do not have access to such a machine hollow-tining by hand - held forks could take up to a week depending on availability of labour.

Whatever method, be careful when you remove the cores to prevent them from being swept back into the holes.

Verti-Draining: This is a process where the



soil is shattered and multiple fissures are created in its profile, allowing air in.

Solid tines are driven into the soil at an oblique angle. As the machine moves forward, the tip of the tine is swept back into the soil, with the green's surface acting as the fulcrum. Soil in the root zone is disturbed, but the entry point remains small; play is possible within a day. It is possible to adjust the depth of the tine so maximum benefit is achieved about 15-20 mm below the existing level of the root system, allowing O² to permeate beneath.

Water Injection: This a revolutionary idea to be applied to sports turf management.

Water is injected under ultra high-pressure through the surface of the green into the root zone. The water creates "caves" in the root zone and when the water has dispersed O² will replace it and fill the "caves". It causes virtually no surface disruption; play is possible after treatment.

NB: Years ago farmers realised if they always ploughed their land to the same depth they would get a "plough sole effect" - a smooth, impenetrable layer. This can happen on a bowling green if one aerates always to the same depth. Take care to alter the depth of aeration every few years. If machinery required to aerate the green is unavailable you must aerate by hand - a slow, tedious business. It means the green out of action for a longer time; but no reason to not aerate annually.

I anticipated the next communication and it was not long in coming.

“My club committee and I have studied your letter and we all appreciate the importance of aeration. The only question now is how often do we do this?”

Well Jack, this would actually depend on soil texture and green traffic.

Accept aeration would be part of your annual renovation. Under normal circumstances one can expect soil texture predominantly sandy; not more than 10% clay. Even with a traffic count of 350 players/green/month, you could probably get away with aerating annually.

If the clay content is above 10% you might have to consider an additional session of aeration. If your traffic count is above that figure, consider an additional session, but you could, probably, get away with doing the only the green's perimeter.

You will, by now, have enough experience to recognise when your grass is under stress. While there might be many reasons for a patch not doing so well, you must never ignore it - find the cause.

If you are in doubt, your final yardstick would be the depth of the root system. If, over a period, there is noticeable reduction in the depth of the roots then you will know you are in trouble. For a persistent weak or bare area you should hollow tine that part while avoiding any active cultivation – e.g. mowing.

I think that is enough for the time being. In my next letter we will discuss other reasons for renovation.



BOWLS SA ROUNDUP

INTEGRATED COACHING AT ALL LEVELS SET OUT BY BSA

Bowls South Africa, which fully subscribes to the national long term coach and players' development policies, is committed to ensuring development and accreditation requirements conform to policy and standards of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee [Sasco]. Coaching is set in terms of integrated activities designed to assist players develop skills, knowledge of the game, thus improving competitive performance at all levels. It is underpinned by:

1. HUMANITY

Coaches shall respect the right, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. They shall treat everyone equitably and sensitively within the context of their activity and ability, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation.

2. RELATIONSHIP

A coach shall be entrusted with the well-being, safety protection and future growth of the individual, guiding and encouraging a player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training and competition.

3. INTEGRITY

Coaches shall consistently display high personal standards of coaching and project a favourable image of the sport and not to adopt practices to accelerate performance improvements which will jeopardise the safety and total well-being of the player

4. SAFETY

Only qualified and registered coaches with the necessary credentials and experience to safely and efficiently teach the skills and art of bowling shall be permitted to coach at all levels. Coaches shall conform to the highest levels of players' care and establish practice environments that minimise the potential of physical harm.

5. CHILD PROTECTION

Coaches in direct contact with minors (under 18) will be screened to establish suitability.

6. TRAINING OF COACHES

Coaches at all levels will receive training on

developing their own and players' technical, psychological, tactical, physical/life skills, emphasising on communication, teaching and learning.

7. PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

The periodical evaluation of competence will include appraisal of each of the areas covered by this policy. The appraisal includes personal development, communication ability, programme success and interaction with other constituents.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches shall be required to sign a code of conduct; violation could result in sanction or termination of the right to coach.

9. NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE (NSCC)

Bowls South Africa's executive will appoint a NSC to assist and advise them on coaching matters. This committee is entrusted to implement policy, the supporting modus operandi for caches and the coaches' Purpose Statement.

10. DISTRICT STANDING COMMITTEES (DSCCs)

District executives will appoint a DSC for coaching to assist and advise on district-related coaching matters. In addition, DSCCs are entrusted to implement national policies/procedures in support of NSCC, with their own district modus operandi for coaches. Districts are encouraged to appoint a head coach[s] to develop elite players, raising standard of play at district level in conjunction with local selectors, identification and monitoring those able to represent district and country, plus maintaining communication with the national head coach.

11. COACHES AT CLUBS

Club executives shall ensure a qualified coach be available for all newcomers, to assist existing club players to fulfil potential and to assist and advise on club-related coaching matters.

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS



John G Fleming Bowling Club is optimistic its membership will increase in 2016 after 21 newcomers took advantage of its offer of free membership until February 29, 2016. Part of Bowls Scotland's Try Bowls campaign, the Renfrewshire club held a community fun day to bring in new members. Twenty-one decided to take up the free membership. As many of them have returned to play and a good number have invested in bowls and shoes the club is optimistic that they will become paying members next season.



YOUNG AUSSIE STAR ELLEN RYAN MENTORED

Ellen Ryan is to receive mentoring from one of Australia's premier sporting personalities as part of receive mentoring from five of Australia's greatest athletes, as part of the 2016 Sport Australia Hall of Fame Scholarship and Mentoring Programme. The 18 year-old Australian Jackaroos squad member Ryan has been chosen as one of five young recipients to receive mentoring. And the talented Goulburn-based Cabramatta, Ryan has been paired up four-time Olympic gold medallist

Dawn Fraser MBE. Sport Australia provides support and funding for a year. Fraser won four gold and four silver medals across the 1956 Melbourne, 1960 Rome and 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Ryan won the Mixed Pairs at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa and silver in the girls' singles final. Last year she pocketed a cool \$16,000 (about R160 000) in the process, when she won the 2015 Australian Open Women's Singles.

VENUES FOR 2016

Venues confirmed for 2016 national events:
 Warwick: Bowls SA Masters: Wanderers; Perfect Delivery/Bowls SA Open Inter-Districts: Edenvale (HQ), Modderfontein, Avion Park Benoni CC; Perfect Delivery/Bowls SA Senior Inter-Districts: Belgravia, Italian, Jeppe Quondam; Bowls SA "B" Inter-Districts: Port Elizabeth BC, Western Suburbs, Park Drive, Westview; Warwick/Bowls SA U25 Inter-Districts: Bloemfontein Municipals; Bowls SA U19 Development: Orangia.

OZ CLUBS ATTRACT ALL AGES

As the lengthening days signal the dawn of another bowls season, it's not just the thousands of battle-hardened competitors around Victoria's 520-odd bowling clubs who are looking forward to returning to the green. While the die-hard, old-school bowlers keep the clubs going all year round, many clubs – particularly in Melbourne – owe their healthy membership numbers to a boom in "barefoot bowling" that has reinvigorated the sport. According to Bowls Australia, competitive playing members nudged 450,000 in the early 1980s. Now that figure has fallen to below 200,000. But while playing membership in Victoria has dropped roughly 20 per cent in five years, overall participation has risen by around 5% as a youthful wave of social bowlers has flocked to the clubs, lured by the game's relaxing atmosphere and the clubs' authentic retro charms. Bowls' growth is attributed growing appeal to the younger demographic to the boom in barefoot bowls "which is drawing a younger, more diverse crowd to get a taste of the sport."

SETS SCORING FOR 2016 DISTRICTS

Following a player's representative meeting held at the Open Inter-Districts in Durban this year, Bowls South Africa's executive have freshened up the three Inter-District championships by adopting a sets scoring system. It will come into effect in 2016, writes Alan Simmonds, Media Officer, Bowls South Africa. Each of the three districts events will be played in two sections on a league basis with all teams in a section playing one another over 21 ends, split into three sets of seven ends. The winner of the toss decides who takes the mat, but at the start of the second and third set, the winner of the previous set must take the mat. If a set is drawn, the winner of the last scoring end in that set must take the mat. At the start of any other end, the winner of the previous end must take the mat. One point is for a set won, two for a winning team per game and three bonus points to the overall winners - net aggregate

shots of the combined two teams to count. If a set, game or match be drawn, points are shared; total points available a match -13. If play is abandoned scoring is: Sets: One point for the winner of each completed set; points shared for incomplete sets; games: After two sets (14 ends) are completed, a team with most shots (based on completed ends), wins. If fewer than two sets are completed, points are shared; Overall: Bonus points go to the side with the most shots, based on completed ends, irrespective of how many are completed. Section winners and runners-up are decided by, in order: Points, highest net score, highest shot percentage, then the winner of the game between the two in sectional play; if still a tie, a sudden death (one-end) tie-breaker. Sectional winners meet for gold or silver medals; if the final is tied, sudden death extra ends decide the result; sectional runners-up each automatically receive bronze medals.

GOLD SQUADS NAMED

Bowls South Africa have named 12 men and women members for the SA Gold Squad (reduced from 16).

They are:

Men: Brendan Ainley (NI), Gerry Baker (JBA), Pierre Breitenbach (NW), Stephan de Jager (BOL), Bobby Donnelly (JBA), Jason Evans (JBA), Rudi Jacobs (NW), Morgan Muvhango (SBA), Prince Neluonde (JBA), Thinus Oelofse (EKB), Nicholas Rusling (WP), Gidion Vermeulen (PNB); **Women:** Gaylyn Bedford-Owen (SBA), Tracy-Lee Botha (JBA), Sylvia Burns (WP), Elma Davis (Eden), Esme Haley (JBA), Esme Kruger (BGN), Nici Neal (SBA), Susan Nel (SBA), Colleen Piketh (JBA), Anneke Snyman (BOL), Roxanne Tingle (JBA), Bronwyn Webber (PNB).

RISING STARS?

Up-and-coming Pakistan bowlers - Ayub Qureshi, Umair Nazir, Usman Latif, Pakistan Lawn Bowls, Mian Shahbaz, before a tournament





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Articles, information and pictures (jpegs of 250dpi or better) for this newsletter may be sent to twickers@gmail.com

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